

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE WESTERN SPRINGS LITTLE
LEAGUE ALL-STAR OF 2007

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 12-year-olds of the Western Springs All-Star Little League team for their success in capturing the state championship title of 2007 as well as all of their other momentous achievements during the 2007 season. Their commitment and dedication, never giving up in the face of adversity, set them apart from their competitors and made their community proud.

The 2007 Western Springs All-Star team, featuring neighborhood standouts Jack Toner, Peter Swanson, Christopher O'Reilly, David Reed, Tim Goldrick, Jake Elliot, Bret Cunningham, Matt Aikens, Charlie Netzel, Andrew Hinds, Eddie Gengo, and Keith Lehmann, began their season with high expectations after winning a state title the year before. They did not disappoint. As they finished their season 15–1, they continued living by their motto: "Never Give Up, Never EVER Give Up."

This winning attitude brought the Western Springs team to another state championship and gave them the inspiration to persevere even in tough times. I would like to recognize the diligence and commitment which have characterized the Western Springs Little League, rising to a consistent high level of perennial success as district champions, and now State champions two years in a row.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to commend the hard work and talent of the 2007 Western Springs All-Star team, their calm under pressure, and their sportsmanship even in defeat. The Western Springs Little League All-Stars of 2007 have made a great accomplishment of which they can all be proud. I send my congratulations to them and their families, as well as my thanks for their hard work and for the tradition of excellence, which they have established in the Third District of Illinois.

WELCOMING HOME STAFF
SERGEANT SCOTT LILLEY

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker. I rise today to welcome a brave American soldier home to New Mexico. SSgt. Scott Lilley is returning to his family in Roswell, NM, after spending 7 months recovering from a serious wound in battle which left shrapnel lodged in his brain.

Staff Sergeant Lilley served his country bravely for 6 months before he was injured when his convoy in Iraq was attacked by small arms fire on April 15, 2007. In the face of enemy fire, he displayed the utmost courage while defending his fellow soldiers. Despite suffering a life threatening wound, Staff Sergeant Lilley continues to be an example of bravery and strength in his recovery.

Over the course of his career the medals and awards collected by Staff Sergeant Lilley

included: The Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Staff Sergeant Lilley was treated by military doctors and transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, where he received further medical treatment. Now, 7 months after what could have been a fatal injury, Staff Sergeant Lilley has returned home to be with his family and continue the healing process. Welcome home Scott and God bless you and your family.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH
CARINCI OF ONEIDA, NY FOR HIS
BRAVERY AND SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Carinci of Oneida, NY. Mr. Carinci is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, Boatswain's Mate Second Class, who served bravely and honorably in World War II.

Joseph Carinci entered the Navy on March 11, 1943, and, at the age of 18, boarded the gun boat USS *Plymouth* for his first sea voyage. On August 4th, the USS *Plymouth* was struck by a German U-boat while escorting a convoy en route to Key West, FL. Mr. Carinci and his shipmates waited for rescue in choppy, shark-infested waters as the ship sank. Tragically, by the time a British rescue ship arrived, Mr. Carinci was among only 85 surviving crew members. Following this harrowing experience, Mr. Carinci served honorably on the destroyer escort USS *Hissem*.

Because of his exemplary service, Joseph Carinci was offered a promotion to the title of Boatswain's Mate First Class. Sadly, he was unable to re-enlist in the Navy and receive his promotion due to family tragedy: his father had recently lost a leg in a railroad accident. Because the Carinci family had already lost a son to the war in France and had another injured in Saipan, Mr. Carinci had no choice but to return home to support his family. He was honorably discharged on December 5, 1945.

Joseph Carinci was awarded the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Star Device, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal with Asia Clasp, and a Combat Action Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, since leaving the service, Mr. Carinci has been an active member of veterans groups in Upstate New York. I am honored to count him as one of my constituents, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joseph Carinci and the countless other brave Americans who have served this country.

HONOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our Nation's veterans. This is a day to reflect and give thanks to those who have served the United States of America. Their dedication and courage to protect America's freedoms should never go unnoticed or unappreciated.

This week, I was proud to introduce the Military Service Tax Relief Act, which provides tax relief to members of the military and their families. This bill permanently extends a current provision that allows military members called to active duty to make withdrawals—penalty-free—from their retirement plans. It also continues to allow members of the military to include combat pay as earned income, thus allowing more military members to further capitalize on the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Furthermore, this year, I have been advocating for assured healthcare for veterans and I helped pass the largest budget increase in the 77-year history of the VA, which boosts funding for veterans' services by \$6.7 billion over last year's level. This funding will help cover the VA's increasing patient load and improve health care facilities and treatment for service members and veterans.

This money is increasingly important to Florida, where we have 1.8 million veterans. And, last year, over 50 veterans moved to Florida every day, making it the fastest growing veterans' population in the country.

Florida also has over 100,000 returning soldiers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan. In wartime, as our men and women come home, we need to realize that they have new needs, and we must find new solutions to help return them to productivity in the workforce and in our communities.

With the influx of many more disabled soldiers coming home, I supported legislation that includes \$62 million to hire new claims processors to address the 400,000 claim backlog and \$20 million to help speed up administering initial disability exams.

On this Veterans Day, and on every day, I honor America's veterans and soldiers and continuously express my sincere gratitude for their sacrifices.

POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING
GEORGE F. BAKER, D.D.S., AS
THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAM-
PION 2007 HONOREE AT THE
TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY
HEALTH CHAMPIONS RECEPTION
BY THE WEST FRESNO
HEALTHCARE COALITION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate George F. Baker, D.D.S. for being posthumously named a 2007 honoree at the Tribute to Health Champions reception by the West Fresno Healthcare Coalition. As a person who helped shape the dental profession and patient care throughout San Joaquin Valley, he is certainly deserving of this honor.